

**John Patterson to George Washington, September 2, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM MR. JOHN PATTERSON.**

SATURDAY MORNING MOUNT VERNON Sepr. ye 2nd 1758

HONOURABLE SIR

I understand you have not recd. Letters that I wrote, its certainly by some bad management, for I readily comply'd in puting Letters in Col. Carlyle's Store, & directed to ye. care of Lieutenant Smith &c. I asure you Sir its not true any negligence of mine, for as you are pleas'd to desire hereing how your building goes on, I think its a satisfaction more than otherwise. In my last I wrote ye outside of ye House being finish'd, ye Closets excepted, that by reason of not having flooring plank; which Mr. Balendine has got a Bill of. I shall have ye Old dineing room, with ye Room ajacent to it finish'd, about ye ninth of this Inst. I will have ye Doors ready at ye sd. time. The goods from York is not ariv'd, but Col. Fairfax informs me he will do his endeavor to procure them as soon as possible; that Gent. asits me withhis advice, & every other article lyes in his power, for certainly I would be at a stop in laying floor if he had not supply'd me with flooring Bords as there were none to be had here about. For fear ye. last letter has been miscarried Mr. Triplet cant do ye. two Houses and Yard in all this year, as Bricks is to be made for them, & at ye same time having ye House to Plaster. And as your Hon. seem'd to be urgent in having them finish'd off directly, I inclos'd your letter to Col. Fairfax to know his opinion of it, he writes its best to have ye underpinning, & all ye outside work to be done first, But I imagine he does not include those two little Houses (for if so) ye Plastering of ye great House would

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not of consequence be done against your return, as Mr. Triplet cant even lath to Plaster on, having work elsewhere engaug'd; as he did not know of those Houses &c. sooner, and as he will direct ye Carpenters to lath it will be equally as well. He has finish'd ye top of ye Chimney's some time ago & when finish'd Major West's House intends here. I layd befor him ye disappointment that may accrue from ye Work not being finish'd, but he seems to be positive in compleating ye Plastering & underpinning against ye last of Novr. Col. Fairfax advisd me to employ a person to paynt ye House, as I had as much Joiner's work as I could do in ye time, & with his consent agreed with a man for four Shill. per day, & in my next will let you know how ye Paynt, & Paynting goes on.

As to my being positive in fixing a time to have ye whole finish'd, its not in my power, but may add without vanity its out of ye power of man to stick more diligent, & take all proper means I am master of to forward ye whole, & shall always make it my study, to Oblidge Your Honour & remain Your Honours.

Most Oblidg'd, Most Humble Servt. JOHN PATTERSON P. S.

I make all ye enquiry that posible for hands likewise gives directions to my acquaintance to do ye same, & if no accidents happens hopes with ye men I have got to finish ye House towards ye last of Novr.